

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 13723 261428Z
ACTION HEW-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 OES-07 AID-05 AGRE-00 COME-00
EB-08 /038 W

-----125762 261432Z /75

P 261425Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9617
INFO AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA

UNCLAS CAIRO 13723

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SWEL, EG
SUBJ: POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION OF FISHMEAL

REF: (A) STATE 94722 (NOTAL), (B) CAIRO 12862 (NOTAL),
CONTAMINATION OF TORM LINES SHIP-

PING COMPANY TWICE VISITED EMBASSY MAY 25 IN CONNECTION
WITH MATTER OF POSSIBLE CONTAMINATION OF FISHMEAL
(REFTELS). FISHMEAL IN QUESTION IS ABOARD TORM LINES
SHIP NOW IN ALEXANDRIA HARBOR.

2. KJOERULFF PRESENTED DIFFERENT INFORMATION ON STATUS
OF SHIPMENT DURING HIS TWO DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBOFFS.
HIS INTENTION THROUGHOUT CLEARLY WAS TO RESOLVE QUESTION
AS TO DISPOSITION OF FISHMEAL THROUGH EMBASSY INTERVEN-
TION WITH MINHEALTH OFFICIALS, APPROACH WHICH WE
DECLINED TO MAKE IN TERMS HE DESIRED AT THAT TIME.
EMBOFFS SOTED, PER REF C, THAT GOE WILL HAVE TO MAKE
ITS OWN TESTS AND TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION ON BASIS TEST
RESULTS. ALSO PER REF C, EMBOFFS COMMENTED FDA IS NOT
ABLE TO ISSUE DEFINITIVE STATEMENT ON CONTAMINATION OF
SHIPMENT.

3. KJOERULFF, HOWEVER, CLAIMED THAT FDA IS NOW CON-
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VINCE THAT CONTAMINATED SHIPMENT HAD NOT IN FACT GONE
TO EGYPT AND THAT EMBASSY'S INFORMATION IS OUTDATED.
EMBASSY THEREFORE AGREED TO QUERY DEPARTMENT TO SEE IF
FDA IN FACT HAS NEW EVIDENCE SHOWING THAT CONTAMINATED
SHIPMENT HAD NOT BEEN SENT TO EGYPT.

4. TORM LINES REP EMPHASIZED IN DISCUSSION THAT TIME WAS OF ESSENCE, SINCE SHIP IS PAYING PORT CHARGES AND, MORE IMPORTANTLY, MEAL WILL DETERIORATE IF NOT SOON REMOVED FROM SHIP. TORM LINES REP ALSO CLAIMED AT ONE POINT THAT SHIPMENT WAS AID FINANCED, ALTHOUGH THIS PROVED NOT TO BE THE CASE.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE IF FDA HAS IN FACT RECEIVED ANY CONCLUSIVE NEW INFORMATION ON CONTAMINATION OF SHIPMENT. MATTHEWS

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NNN

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